

An

## Inaugural Dissertation

Submitted

Passed March 19<sup>th</sup>

To

1824

W. S. H

The Faculty of

Dean

The University of Pennsylvania

For the Degree of

Doctor of Medicine

By

Alexander B. Cullen of Virginia.

Respectfully,  
J. P. Ballou

Doctor of Medicine

for the purpose of

the University of Pennsylvania

The Faculty of

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Chambers

to

## On Gastritis.

The vast importance of the stomach in the animal economy, in which perhaps it occupies the highest rank; located as it is in the centre of our system, and the intimate and multiplied relations existing between it and the rest of the system, render it incident to a great variety of diseases, exceedingly interesting and important. But it is to that particular disease termed gastritis by the Nosologists to which I shall confine my observations.

This disease belongs to the Class Pyrexiae and order Phlogmasiae of Dr. Cullen, and is divided by that author into two kinds; the Phlogmonia and Erythematic, according as one or the other of the coats of that organ is the seat of the disease; the first being seated in the mucous coat of that organ, or the peritoneum investing it.

Dr. Cabot

The most important of the elements in the  
natural economy, in which perhaps it may  
be the highest rank, is the  
order of the system, and the order and  
arrangement of the various elements, which  
is the basis of the system, and it is upon it  
a great variety of things depending, and  
which are important, and it is that for  
which we have to look, and it is the basis  
of the system, and it is upon it  
I want to call your attention  
to the three things, the life, the system, and  
the arrangement of the system, and it is  
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the three things, the life, the system, and  
the arrangement of the system, and it is  
the basis of the system, and it is upon it



The second always in the villous coat, and cellular texture immediately subjacent. But this last seems to be a peculiar action of the stomach and frequently if not generally, accompanies the last stage of Malignant fevers. We shall therefore pass on to the consideration of the more active inflammation of that organ.

The symptoms by which inflammation of the stomach may be denoted, I shall endeavour to enumerate, but before doing so it may be necessary perhaps to say something concerning its Causes.

They appear to be all those which produce inflammation in general; though more particularly by exposure to cold; by taking cold drink into the stomach when the body is much heated by exercise; or by swallowing Stimulant, acid, or poisonous articles; it is sometimes produced by overdistention, from having taken in a large

The second change in the system was the  
the future immediately involved. But this  
last seems to be a further step of the same  
and possibly of not generally recognized  
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last paper is the consideration of the new  
the information of the system.

The question of total information of the  
document may be stated, tested, and  
consequently, but before being a step  
change, perhaps to the following conclusions.

This paper is to all the other papers  
the system in general; though some  
we to express a wish to take into  
of the system when the system is  
to express; or by following the same  
to express itself, it is to be taken  
to express, from having taken in a large

quantity of food of difficult digestion. It may also be excited by external violence, as blows, or falls, and it is said to be sometimes the consequence of repelled or misplaced gout, or the reception of eruptive diseases from the surface to the stomach.

### Symptoms.

The symptoms of gastritis, are an acute pain in some part of the region of the stomach; soreness to the touch, attended with fever, and frequent vomiting; especially when any thing is taken in the stomach; and in the more advanced stages tension about the epigastric and umbilical regions. The pulse even from the commencement is small, but frequent, quick, hard and corded; The patient's strength being in a greater degree of prostration, than in any other of the Phlegmasiae. The disease runs on with great rapidity, and if not timely arrested is attended



by an aggravation of all the preceding symptoms, particularly those of debility. In this stage syncope frequently comes on; the extremities are cold; the surface cold and moist; sunk countenance; feeble and almost imperceptible pulse; hiccup with occasional vomiting of a dark matter; a flatulent distention of the abdomen, and frequently low delirium.

These are generally the precursors of gangrene, and in some instances indicate its actual existence.

Such as I have mentioned are the ordinary symptoms which belong to gastritis, but there are a great variety of anomalous affections which sometimes attend this disease. A singular instance of this fact, was related by Dr. Chapman in his lecture on this disease, in which the most remarkable circumstance attending the case was a violent inflammation and pain in the

is an opportunity of all the remaining portions  
of the property of the estate. It is the duty of  
the executor to see that the estate is properly  
administered and that the debts are paid.  
The executor is also bound to see that the  
property is sold at the best price and that  
the proceeds are distributed to the heirs.  
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great toe resembling podagra. He also observed that Dr. Physic had met with instances of a similar nature. Paralysis is also not a very unfrequent incident in inflammation of the stomach: an intolerance of light, and an aversion to drink also sometimes attend the disease.

From the sensibility of the stomach and the sympathy existing between it and the rest of the system, it is obvious that an inflammation of this organ may terminate fatally, without running the common course of inflammation particularly by the great degree of debility, which such an inflammation suddenly produces.

When it continues long enough to follow the ordinary course of other inflammations, it may terminate by resolution, gangrene, or suppuration. It seldom terminates in scirrhus as it is said to do, by some Nosologists.





When this disease arises from no violent cause and is attended by a moderate state of the symptoms, and with a gradual remission of these, especially when the proper remedies have been employed in the first week; the disease is said to admit of resolution.

When the symptoms continue in a moderate degree for more than one or two weeks, and is attended also by a considerable remission of pain, while a sensation of heaviness and anxiety still remain, the disease is said to have a tendency to terminate by suppuration.

When an abscess has formed, the frequency of the pulse is at first somewhat abated; but soon after it is again increased, with frequent cold shiverings, and with marked exacerbations in the evening, followed by profuse night sweats, and other symptoms of hectic fever. These after a while prove fatal.

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highest and with a perfect knowledge  
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writing is said to be of the first  
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degree more than in the second, and  
is called also of a somewhat superior  
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of the pulse is at first somewhat slower, but  
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times in the evening, followed by frequent  
night sweat, and other symptoms of acute  
fever then after a while more fatal in

leaves the abscess open into the cavity of the stomach, the pus being evacuated by vomiting, and the ulcer soon heal.

When the symptoms continue violent, not yielding to the remedies employed during the first days of the disease, it may be said to have a tendency to gangrene. And the existence of gangrene may be suspected, when there is a sudden remission of pain, while the frequency of the pulse continues, and at the same time becomes weaker, accompanied by other marks of an increasing debility in the whole system.

#### Treatment

The leading indications of cure in this disease are very obvious. We have a violent inflammation situated in the most delicate organ, and distinguished by a rapidity of progress not often witnessed in the inflammation of other



organs. It is therefore necessary to apply the most efficient remedies in the early stage of the disease. Venesection is admitted by all to stand first on the list of our remedies. Totally regardless of the state of pulse, on the apparent prostration of strength, it is our duty to bleed frequently and copiously; for such is the rapid progress of this disease, that a few hours of delay makes a most material difference in the issue. As to the quantity of blood to be drawn, there is no established rule; but if the patient be an adult of a tolerably robust constitution it will be proper to take from twenty to thirty ounces at once from the arm. And it will sometimes be necessary to repeat it, the same day. As we deplete, the pulse becomes fuller and softer, and the system recovers from its apparent prostration, and a case of



ordinary inflammation will be developed infinitely more manageable than the state which had preceded it. The copious bleeding which has already been mentioned will not always suffice in gastritis. For in the course of the first or second day after the operation of phlebotomy, the symptoms will be very little or not at all alleviated. In such cases it will be necessary to repeat the operation and to the same extent as before. The small and frequently repeated bloodlettings recommended by some authors, are wholly insufficient to the cure of this disease. For there is scarcely any disease so apt to deceive the practitioner as this; owing to the few symptoms, which characterize ordinary inflammation being present. We are therefore frequently induced to confide in remedies infinitely less operative than venesection.





Next to bloodletting, blisters are the most important remedies, in the treatment of this disease. They should be large enough to cover the whole of the stomach, immediately over which, they should be applied: Cooperating with the same design, fomentations to the abdomen are important remedies. The mode of applying them, is various; cloths wrung out of hot water, or spiritous liquors or bladders filled with hot water, will answer the purpose very well.

Such is the irritability of the stomach in this disease, that we are in a great measure precluded from the use of internal remedies; every thing taken into this organ being almost immediately rejected. It is however of great importance to open the bowels, and under such circumstances it will be necessary to resort to emollient injections;

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important measure, as the instrument of the  
reform. This should be large enough to  
cover the whole of the present movement.  
Every state, they think is entitled to  
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act of applying them, is a serious matter.  
Every one of them, in fact, is a  
in its own right, and its own  
the paper may say.  
There is the necessity of the reform in this  
times, that we are a great nation for  
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any thing else, and this is a great  
and immediately applied. It is a  
of great importance to the world.  
and more and more, it will be  
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and as these seem to operate chiefly by mechanical distention, they should consist of the mildest ingredients, and be thrown up the rectum in large quantities. They should also be frequently repeated, by which means they have the two fold effect of keeping the bowels in a soluble state, and acting as fomentations to the intestines.

As soon as the stomach will permit we should administer laxatives, or purges; and the articles generally resorted to, are castor oil or calomel, perhaps the latter article may have the preference, as it is more easily retained than the former. Epsom salts is also a valuable medicine in this disease, it being sometimes retained when all other articles are rejected.

It is an important indication in gastritis to calm the irritability of the stomach; and

and as there is a great variety of matter  
and subjects, they should be treated of in  
different chapters, and in different  
order, in each of them. They should  
be a frequent subject of study, and  
they have the great effect of keeping  
the mind in a state of activity, and  
preparing it for the reception  
of new ideas. It is the duty of the  
teacher to present the subject in a  
clear and concise manner, and to  
lead the pupil to the discovery of  
the truth. The teacher should be  
a guide, and not a dictator. He  
should be a friend, and not a  
master. He should be a helper,  
and not a hinderer. He should be  
a teacher, and not a lecturer.

for this purpose we should, in the early stages of the disease, give lime-water and milk or the effervescent draught; and should these fail, we should next resort to anodyne injections. The warm bath is also a useful remedy, but should not be used, until the violence of the inflammation be subdued by the necessary depleting remedies.

Demulcent drinks are recommended by most authors; but they seem to increase the irritability of the stomach, and we think should be sparingly used, particularly in the commencement of the attack. Even to allay thirst, very small portions of any liquid should be allowed. Toast water answers this purpose very well.

When the symptoms of an approaching gangrene appear, Opium is principally to be relied on. Among the many other valuable



properties of this article, it possesses that of arresting a tendency to gangrene and mortification; but if Opium fail under these circumstances, we should resort to the spirits of turpentine, which is in this last stage of the disease, one of the most valuable of our remedies. —

I have been thinking of the  
 of reading a history of the  
 civilization, but of course for some  
 the reason that, as I have said, it  
 is a kind of a history, which is in  
 the last stage of the history of the  
 and which is the history of the





